

layouts. Thereafter, the print data is transferred to printer C.

Further, the paper ejection type of printer B in Fig. 9 is not limited to the face-down ejection type, and may be the face-up ejection type. Furthermore, the present invention is not limited to a case where the data stored in the information processing apparatus is in the ascending order. If the stored data is in the descending order, print data is transferred to a destination printer in the page order or in the order opposite to the page order depending upon the paper ejection type, i.e., face-up ejection type or face-down ejection type, of the destination printer.

Next, control is exercised as follows when a malfunction occurs after the seventh page is printed by printer C, which prints pages that include the final page of the entire document: If metafile spooling is being carried out and it can be detected that printer A is of the type that ejects paper face-up, then the job that includes only the eighth and ninth pages is reconstructed and introduced to printer A, as indicated at (1) in Fig. 11. As a result, pages are output to printer A in the order 8, 9, 1, 2, 3 from top down. Although work to sort the printouts is not non-existent, the task is very easy to perform. Further, if metafile spooling is not being carried out and it can be detected that printer B is of the type that ejects paper face-

down, then the job that includes the seventh to ninth
pages, which had been introduced to printer C that
malfunctioned, is introduced to printer B, as indicated
at (2) in Fig. 11. As a result, pages are introduced to
5 printer B in the order 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 from bottom up.
If it cannot be detected that printer B is of the type
that ejects paper face-down but it can be detected that
printer A is of the type that ejects paper face-up, then
the job that includes the seventh to ninth pages, which
10 had been introduced to printer C that malfunctioned, is
introduced to printer A, as indicated at (3) in Fig. 11.
As a result, pages are introduced to printer A in the
order 7, 8, 9, 1, 2, 3 from top down. In a case where
neither of the above applies, the job is re-introduced
15 to bin 2 of printer A, which was specified in setting
area 44 of Fig. 4, in a manner similar to that of the
case described above in connection with Fig. 10.

In the operation as indicated at (2) in Fig. 11, if
the data of the RAW format stored in printer C is in the
20 ascending order of pages (1, 2, 3, ...), since destination
printer B ejects paper face-down in the ascending order
4, 5, 6, print data is transferred in the ascending
order of pages. Further in the operation as indicated
at (3) in Fig. 11, since destination printer C ejects
25 paper face-up in the descending order 3, 2, 1, the print
data is changed from the ascending order to the
descending order and then transferred to the printer C.

It should be noted that printer C is assumed to be of the face-down ejection type in Fig. 11 similarly to Fig. 9. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and printer C may be the face-up ejection type.

5 Further, in Fig. 11, the distributed job assigned to the malfunctioning printer is assumed to include the final page of the print job prior to its division. Whereas, if the distributed job assigned to the malfunctioning printer includes a first page of the
10 print job prior to its division (printer A in Fig. 11), and printer B ejects paper face-up in the operation as indicated at (2) in Fig. 11, or printer C ejects paper face-down in the operation as indicated at (3) in Fig. 11, reassignment of distributed job is performed as
15 explained with reference to Fig. 11.

<Second Embodiment>

As another embodiment, when it is determined as YES at step S65 in the flowchart shown in Fig. 6, processes at steps S66 and S67 may be skipped and the processing
20 explained with reference to Fig. 7 may be performed instead of the processing of the flowchart shown in Fig. 8 when it is determined as YES at step S68.

This corresponds to a case where the spool file has a format such as EMF format and all of the pages of the
25 distributed job is subject to the reassignment. In this case, data introduced in the operation as indicated in Fig. 7, (2) and (3) in Fig. 9, (1) in fig. 10, and (2)